

Addendum
Wildlife Management Plan

List of Special Status Species at BNL

The current version of BNL's Wildlife Management Plan identifies only the New York State listed endangered tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) and the species of special concern banded sunfish (*Enneacanthus obesus*). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) recently updated the list of animals that were designated as threatened, endangered, or considered 'special concern' species in December 1999. In May 2000 the NYSDEC proposed an update to the protected plants list. Table 1 of this addendum provides the list of animals and plants that are designated as threatened, endangered, 'special concern', rare, or exploitably vulnerable by NYSDEC. There are no federally listed threatened or endangered plants or animals known to exist at BNL.

Animals

The status of the banded sunfish was changed to 'threatened' by the NYSDEC. This new status indicates that the fish may become endangered unless actions are taken to protect it. BNL's current WMP provides for maintaining the sunfish's habitat by ensuring flow to the Peconic River. The review of any actions occurring in locations where the banded sunfish is known to inhabit must occur prior to those actions. BNL should also commit to identification of the sunfish's habitat and biology in order to be better prepared to protect this fish.

The marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) was added to the list of 'special concern' species. This status does not impose any legal requirements for protection. However, BNL has historically treated 'special concern' species as needing protection. Current protective activities associated with the tiger salamander should be sufficient for protection of the marbled salamander. However, an understanding of the biology of the marbled salamander at BNL should be a goal that can be achieved by identification of breeding habitat and literature surveys.

Three reptiles are now on the list of 'special concern' species that are known to exist at BNL. Habitat is sufficiently protected at this time for the two turtle species, eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) and spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). The eastern box turtle is locally abundant and is commonly seen at the Lab. The spotted turtle is known to inhabit ponds and wetlands along the Peconic River. These areas are well protected from disturbance. The one snake, eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*) is only known to exist at BNL based on a few sightings. Review of activities that would disturb wetlands and other aquatic habitats would be protective of the spotted turtle and eastern hognosed snake. NEPA review of projects will be used to determine potential impacts to 'special concern' reptile species.

The four common or nesting birds of 'special concern', horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), and grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), should not require any special actions. Bird surveys are conducted as part of the Wildlife Management Plan and will provide data concerning these species.

Several invertebrate species listed as endangered, threatened, or of 'special concern' by NYSDEC are known on Long Island and Suffolk County. However no information on distribution within Suffolk County is available. As data and information on these species is accumulated their status on BNL will be evaluated and incorporated as appropriate.

Plants

Seventeen protected plant species are known on BNL. The regulation protecting these plants supports the landowner's right to limit collection of protected plants on their property. The Lab should protect these plants from destruction. One of the first actions that is needed to protect these plants is an understanding of where they may be found onsite and their biology. Only one threatened and one rare plant species, stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*) and narrow-leaved bush clover (*Lespedeza angustifolia*) respectively, are located on BNL. All other protected species known on BNL are considered exploitably vulnerable by NYSDEC. Exploitably vulnerable implies that continued collection and/or harvest of these species at current rates may result in their becoming rare, threatened, or endangered. BNL's current plan must incorporate the identification of these species and an understanding of their biology must be acquired prior to being able to assess the management needs to protect them.

This addendum will be incorporated, with appropriate modifications, in the Wildlife Management Plan during the next major revision of the WMP. Any additional information concerning the species in the attached table will be added at that time.